

# Tangents and Normals

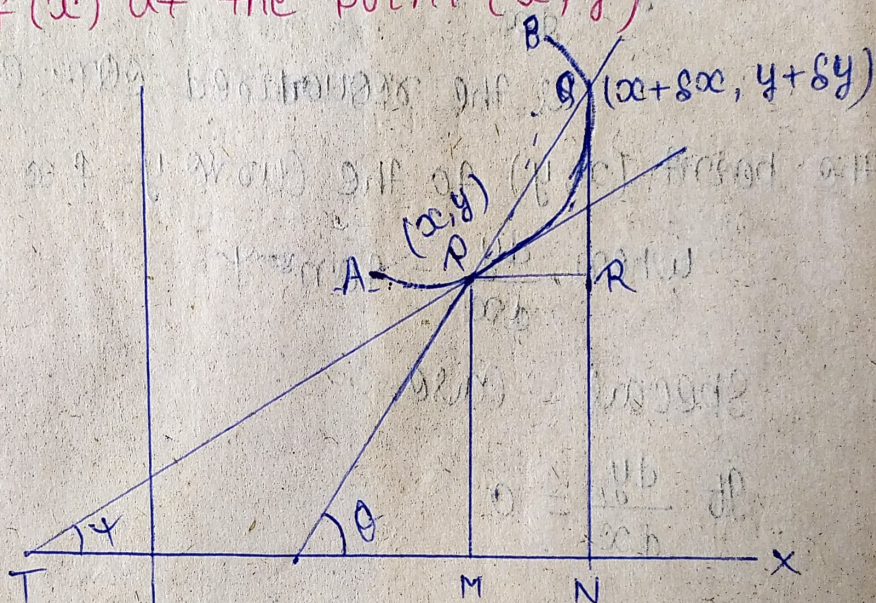
Chapter  
6

Theorem: - (1) Prove that the equation to the tangent to the curve  $y = f(x)$  at  $(x, y)$  is  $y - y = \frac{dy}{dx}(x - x)$  and that to the curve  $f(x, y) = 0$  is  $(x - x)f_x + (y - y)f_y = 0$ .

(or)

To find the equation of tangent to the curve  $y = f(x)$  at the point  $(x, y)$ .

Ans.  $\rightarrow$



Let AB be the equation of a curve  $y = f(x)$  ①

We want to know the equation of tangent at the pt  $P(x, y)$  to the curve ②

Let Q be,  $(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y)$  another point on the curve very close to P

Let  $(x, y)$  be the current co-ordinate

Then the eqn. of PQ is given by

$$y - y = \frac{y + \Delta y - y}{x + \Delta x - x} (x - x)$$

$$y - y_1 = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} (x - x_1) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

When  $Q \rightarrow P$ , then  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$  and the line  $PQ$  is tangent to the curve at the point  $P$  makes an angle  $\psi$  with the  $x$ -axis.

Let the tangent at  $P$ , i.e.  $PT$  with  $x$ -axis

Hence, on taking limit when  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$

$$y - y_1 = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} (x - x_1)$$

$$y - y_1 = \frac{dy}{dx} (x - x_1)$$

is the required eqn. of tangent at the point  $(x_1, y_1)$  to the curve  $y = f(x)$

when,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \tan \psi$

Special case

$$\text{If } \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\tan \psi = 0 = \tan 0$$

$$\psi = 0$$

Hence the tangent is  $\parallel$  to  $x$  axis

$$\text{when } \psi = 90^\circ$$

tangent is  $\parallel$  to  $y$ -axis.

$$y - y_1 = \frac{dy}{dx} (x - x_1)$$

$$y - y_1 = -\frac{f_x}{f_y} (x - x_1)$$

$$\text{or, } (y-y) f_y = -f_x (x-x)$$

or,  $f_x(x-x) + f_y(y-y)$  is the required eqn. of tangent to the curve  $f(x,y) = 0$  at the point  $(x,y)$

At the pt  $(x,y)$ , to the curve  $y = f(x)$

$$y - y = \frac{dy}{dx} (x - x)$$

When the eqn. of the curve  $f(x,y) = 0$  the eqn. of tangent

$$(x-x) f_x + (y-y) f_y = 0$$

Prove that

(i) The Cartesian sub-normal tangent =  $\frac{y}{y_1}$ ,

(ii) The Cartesian sub-normal =  $yy_1$ ,

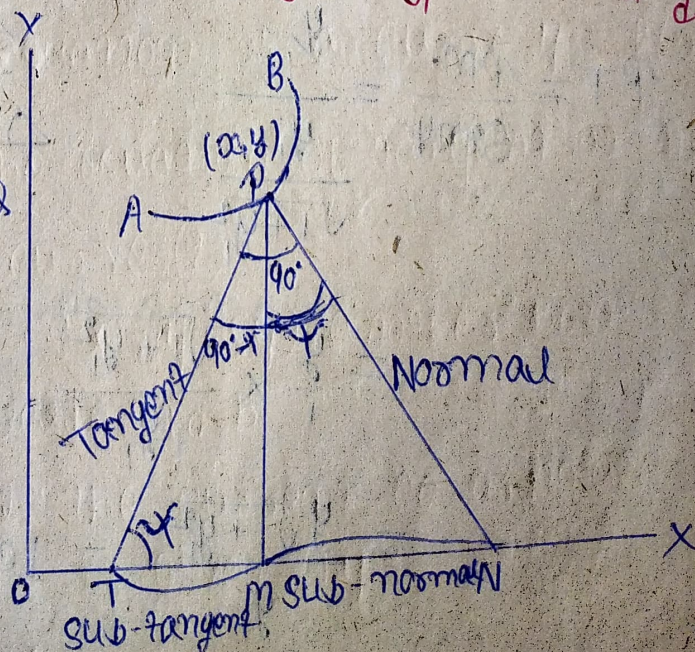
(iii) The Length of the tangent =  $\frac{y}{y_1} \sqrt{1 + y_1^2}$

(iv) The Length of the normal =  $y \sqrt{1 + y_1^2}$ , where  $y_1 = \frac{dy}{dx}$

Ans. → Let AB be a curve whose eqn. is

$$y = f(x)$$

Let  $P(x,y)$  be any point on the curve.



Hence  $PT =$  Tangent at pt.  $P(x, y)$  to the curve.

or,  $PN =$  Normal

Let tangent  $PT$  makes an angle  $\psi$  with the

axis of  $x$ , then  $\tan \psi = \frac{dy}{dx} = y_1$

Let the tangent at  $P$  meet the  $x$ -axis at  $T$

from  $P$ , draw  $PM \perp$  to  $OX$

the  $TM =$  Sub Tangent

$MN =$  Sub normal

$$\therefore OM = x$$

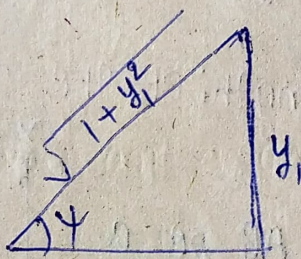
$$PM = y$$

Length of tangent

In  $\Delta PTM$

$$\sin \psi = \frac{PM}{PT}$$

$$PT = \frac{PM}{\sin \psi} = \frac{y_1}{\frac{y_1}{\sqrt{1+y_1^2}}}$$



$$= \frac{y}{1} \times \frac{\sqrt{1+y_1^2}}{y_1}$$

$$= \frac{y \sqrt{1+y_1^2}}{y_1} = \text{Length of tangent}$$

## Length of Normal

In  $\Delta PMN$

$$\cos \psi = \frac{PM}{PN}$$

$$\therefore PN = \frac{PM}{\cos \psi} = \frac{y}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+y^2}}} = \frac{y}{1} \times \frac{\sqrt{1+y^2}}{1}$$

$$\text{Length of Normal} = y\sqrt{1+y^2}$$

## Length of Sub-tangent

In  $\Delta PTM$

$$\tan \psi = \frac{PM}{TM}$$

$$\text{Sub-tangent } TM = \frac{PM}{\tan \psi} = \frac{y}{\frac{y}{dy/dx}} = \frac{y}{y} \times \frac{dy}{dx}$$

## Length of Sub-normal

In  $\Delta PMN$

$$\frac{\tan \psi}{1} = \frac{MN}{PM}$$

$$\text{Sub-normal } MN = PM \tan \psi$$

$$= y \times \frac{dy}{dx}$$